

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 301735Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2756

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 0846

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4 (IMPDET)

TAGS:PFOR, MILI, GY, CU

SUBJECT: PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS CONFIRMED

REF: A. GEORGETOWN 827 B. GEROGETOWN 681

1. FOLLOWING UP ON MY CONVERSATION OF APRIL 28 WITH FONMIN FRED WILLS (PARA 5, REFTEL A), I SAW HIM AT SOCIAL FUNCTION EVENING APRIL 29 AND ASKED HIM IF HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO BRIGADIER PRICE ABOUT THE REPORTS OF CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS. WILLS SAID HE HAD AND THAT QUOTE UNOFFICIALLY UNQUOTE HE COULD CONFIRM THAT THERE WERE ABOUT A HALF DOZEN CUBAN OFFICERS GIVING INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING QUOTE TANKS UNQUOTE. CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT PERMIT FURTHER DISCUSSION, BUT WHEN WILLS PHONED ME THIS MORNING TO PASS ON MATTERS RAISED WITH HIM BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR (REPORTED SEPTTEL), I ASKED WHETHER HE MEANT TANKS AT TIMEHRI AIRPORT OR SOMETHING ELSE. HE SAID THE PEOPLE HE MENTIONED WERE AT AIRPORT BECAUSE THE REFUELING OPERATIONS WERE HIGHLY TECHNICAL. I REMINDED HIM THAT WHAT I HAD DISCUSSED WITH HIM WAS SOMETHING DIFFEENT AND BROADER IN NATURE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED HE WAS AWARE OF THIS.

2. COMMENT: THIS OBVIOUSLY IS A DODGE, THOUGH WILLS INCIDENTALLY CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY ASSOCIATED WITH FUEL TANKS AT BASE BY TIMEHRI AIRPORT WHICH WE REPORTED IN PARA 4,

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REFTEL B. WHETHER BURNHAM AUTHORIZED WILLS TO GIVE ME THIS STORY

OR NOT, BOTH HE AND WILLS MUST REALIZE THAT IS IS ONLY A MATTER
OF TIME UNTIL COVER IS BLOWN ON PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY IN
GUYANA. IT IS POSSIBLE WILLS GAVE ME THIS INFORMATION WITOUT
CONSULTING BURNHAM, AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD HOLD OFF ANY OFFICIAL
REACTION HERE UNTIL WE HAV STRONGER EVIDENCE WHICH WE ARE VIRTUALLY
CERTAIN TO OBTAIN BEFORE MANY DAYS HAVE PASSED. IN ANY EVENT,
I BELIEVE RAISING ISSUE IN WILLS-JUSSINGER MEETING, ASSUMING THIS
IS ON RAILS, WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO IMPRESS GOG WITH SERIOUSNESS
OF OUR CONCERN.
KREBS

SECRET

NNN

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